

*MAIL ROOM
7-1-94
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| In Re Application of |) | For: PREPARATION AND TRANSFER |
| RODERICK THOMPSON |) | SHEET |
| Serial No.: 08/259,006 |) | |
| Filed: 06/13/94 |) | Group Art Unit: unknown |

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Examiner

RECEIVE

JUL 1 1994
Group 150

I, Roderick Thompson declare and say that:

1. I am the sole inventor of the invention described in the above-referenced patent application.

2. I conceived of the invention in approximately June of 1990. Prior to that time, I had recognized the need for a plastic food preparation board that was sufficiently thin and flexible to bend into a curved scoop for transferring food, that would resist scoring by a knife, that would resist spalling and unsightly blushing, and that would not have a tendency to curl, i.e., would have "lay flat" characteristics. I further recognized the advantage of transparency to enable recipes to be read through the board. Nevertheless, although I worked in the plastics manufacturing industry, I did not know of a material that would satisfy these requirements. I spoke to numerous plastics suppliers, but none could identify a plastic that could be formed into a sheet that would provide the advantages described above. I finally realized in approximately June of 1990 that an extruded sheet of polypropylene, preferably about .010 inches in thickness, but in the range of .008 to .060 inches, would have the properties

DECLARATION END

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and advantages I desired. (I discovered that extrusion is a process that would produce the lay-flat characteristics.) When I asked plastics suppliers whether they could provide such extruded sheet polypropylene in this thickness range, however, almost all of them told me that they could only provide it from roll-stock. In approximately September of 1991, I finally located a plastics supplier, Witt Plastics of Greenville, Ohio, that could extrude sheet polypropylene to meet the specifications described above. I then instructed Witt Plastics to produce the polypropylene sheets for me, as evidenced by the letter I sent to Sue Witt on September 17, 1991, attached to this Declaration as EXHIBIT I.

2. The invention was reduced to practice in October of 1991. I received the polypropylene sheets the first week of October, 1991, as evidenced by the invoice from Witt Plastics, attached to this Declaration as EXHIBIT II. I immediately tested the sheets and confirmed that they provided the properties and advantages described above.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Roderick Thompson
RODERICK THOMPSON

6-30-94
Date

JECX271034 R12